



April-June 2015
Volume 8, Issue 2

WWW.FERRISTX.ORG

In this issue

-1-

City Manager

-2-

Library Director

Police Chief

-3-

Fire Chief

Spring Clean Up

-4-

Economic Development

-5-

I.T. Director

Building Official

Council Meetings

are held
at 6:00pm
on the
1st & 3rd Monday
of each month
@ 215 w. Sixth St.
Ferris, TX 75125

Dennis Burn, City Manager

We have had a lot of wet weather, which is a good thing, as Ellis County still retains its drought status. But with this wet weather more potholes in our streets have appeared. Repairs are an on-going effort in an attempt to keep the streets in good condition. Our Public Works Department has been and will continue to perform some repair work utilizing “cold mix”. However, there are more significant repairs that must be undertaken. We have hired a contractor to perform these repairs. These repairs will consist of 6” thick base course with a 6” thick reinforced concrete surface. There will be 13 locations where these repairs will occur. We realize that there are more than 13 locations that need repair. Other locations will be addressed as funds become available.



The City Council will consider joining with the cities of Palmer and Ennis to form a Community Development Sub Regional Planning Commission (CDSRPC). The CDSRPC’s goal is to coordinate with other governmental units sharing similar needs to plan for the rapidly expanding population of the State in our area. Similar needs that will be addressed are: transportation systems, utility systems, agriculture/business/industry, healthful surroundings for family life in residential areas and historical/cultural values. One main issue that the Commission will undertake is to become proactive regarding the proposed High Speed Rail that is to come through Ellis County. Should the City join this group, one member of the City Council will be appointed to the governing board.

Please come by City Hall to discuss these items or other items in greater detail.

Kathy Harrington, Library Director



With Spring signaling that the school year will soon be ending, the Ferris Public Library is looking forward to our annual summer program. We have always collaborated with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission during this event but this year we are raising the bar and will also be partnering with the Azar Foundation. The Library's Summer Reading Club will run from the first of June until August 14, 2015. Through a grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture, free breakfast and lunch will be provided daily (Tuesday-Friday)

to children ages 18 and under. The Library has booked specialty performers such as "The Bubble Lady", "Zooniversity", "Marty the Magician", and others for educational entertainment. Azar, in association with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension 4-H, will be holding programs on topics such as earth & paleontology, meteorology, physics & chemistry, to name a few. For the teens enrolled in this year's program there will even be field trips. The Texas 4-H Youth Development Group and the Azar Foundation require enrollment forms to be signed by a parent and/or guardian. We are hoping to hold a "Pizza Sign-Up Party" on a Saturday for registration of children wanting to participate in this year's programming. Space will be limited to the Occupation Certificate for the Ferris Public Library. More information will be coming in the Library's column and the Community Calendar in the Ellis County Press.

The Ferris Public Library is located at 301 E. 10th Street. Open: Tuesday - Friday 9AM – 6PM; Saturdays 10AM – 2PM. Contact us at 972-544-3696 or email Kathy.Harrington@ci.ferristx.us.

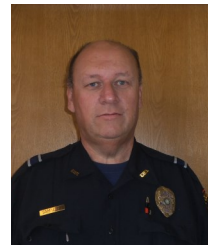


Sam Love, Police Chief

Spring and summer are coming fast. With the last day of school being June 5th, please begin being extra careful of our kids being out and about more at various hours of the day and night during summer break.

The police department will be at the annual Brick Festival on Saturday, April 25th, 2015 at the downtown square. We will offer information on safety and crime prevention. We also like to have our citizens meet the officers. The Texas Department of Public Safety will be with us this year.

We want to honor two officers who lost their life in the line of duty in Ferris, Ferris Patrolman Harry Marvin "Marty" Steinfeldt, III, end of watch: Sunday, October 6, 2002, who was shot and killed while responding to a fight at a gas station in Ferris and Ellis County Constable James Ben Wicker end of watch: Wednesday, October 10, 1962, who succumbed to gunshot wounds received three weeks earlier when he was shot after responding to a shots fired call at a cafe in Ferris, Texas.



More information about them is on the internet at, <http://www.odmp.org/officer/16421-patrolman-harry-marvin-marty-steinfeldt-iii> and <http://www.odmp.org/officer/14141-constable-james-ben-wicker#ixzz1pDqLUfHQ>

We will observe Police Memorial Week May 10 thru 16. Information about the observance on a national level and in Washington, D.C. is available at web site <http://www.policeweek.org/>

The ELLIS COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL CEREMONY will be on Friday MAY 15, 2015 at 12 PM at Ennis Veterans Memorial Park, Address: 2301 Ennis Parkway, Ennis.

Later that day, at 6 PM, Ferris PD will have a ceremony to honor our officers who died in the line of duty at the Ferris Police Memorial at the north end of downtown Ferris.

Thanks to Sgt. James Fischetti we have a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/FerrisTexasPoliceDepartment>

Our Neighborhood Crime Watch program has monthly meetings at the library. Check the city website or our Facebook page for dates and times. We have a Shaw Creek and a Northwest group. We still need volunteers to organize groups in other neighborhoods.

The Ferris Police Department will continue to do our best at crime prevention and making Ferris a safe place. With the help of our citizens keeping us informed we can better accomplish this goal.

Call 911 for any emergency or urgent need. Our Office number is 972/544-2225.

Tim Birdwell, Fire Chief

Spring has arrived! Please be safe as you enjoy spring activities. Remember strong thunderstorms and tornadoes are always a possibility this time of year. Be prepared for these storms by having a weather radio and a go kit ready to take with you if the need arises. When severe weather approaches please monitor the local television channels for updates or keep handy your weather radio. Remember that the center of the home gives you the most protection, away from any outside walls, the smaller the room (bathroom) the more protected you will be. Carry a flashlight with you to possibly alert emergency first responders at night if needed and the electricity is out. Our cities Early Warning Sirens (EWS) are for people who are outside and will alert them to the need to take cover as soon as possible. You may not be able to hear the sirens inside your residence due to high wind, heavy rain, and thunder.



The Ferris Volunteer Firefighters are currently selling **reflective** address signs for a fund raiser. The signs are green with white numbers on both sides. The cost for the reflective address signs are \$15.00. If you prefer, the volunteer firefighters will charge \$20.00 to come out and install the address signs. It is very important to have a visible address number that can be seen from the roadway for emergencies of any sort. Precious time is lost due to the residence having no address numbers visible on the home that faces the street. Please contact Ferris Fire Department at 972-842-2898 for more information.

We also have several smoke detectors that are free along with free installation as well. These are two very important community programs that your volunteers are working on presently.

Tim Birdwell
Fire Chief
Ferris Fire Department
"Brick Tempered Pride"

The City of Ferris, in conjunction with Waste Management, will be holding a

Spring Clean Up Day

Saturday, May 2nd from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Roll Off Containers and an E-Cycling Center
will be provided on the south side of the Pavilion.

*The purpose of the event will be to allow residential clean-up of old furniture, appliances and general junk.
(Appliances cannot contain any Freon)*

Please contact City Hall at 972-544-2110
or visit the city website at www.ferristx.org
for a complete list of acceptable drop off items.

Chuck Dart, Economic Development



Ferris recently enacted the **Residential Economic Incentive Program** to help spur new single family home construction. The program rewards builders/developers who construct homes on any of the approximately 100 “infill” (existing) lots in the City. The incentive program, which can effectively reduce the overall cost of construction by about 2.5%, has proven especially successful in subdivisions where activity declined since the recession.

Questions should be directed to **Chuck Dart. (972) 842-2923.**

When Keith Leftridge decided to expand his dry cleaning business, he compared Ferris to his other location in Desoto. “Over there, a Dry Cleaners is on every corner” said Keith, “and I really like the small town atmosphere that Ferris offers”. The store at 205 S Main also has mobile phone repair.

Keith’s Dry Cleaners (972) 480-1385



Advantage Auto Care opened at 208 N Central in February after its owner saw an untapped market. “Ferris needed a source for competitively priced tires, oil changes, and mechanical work” remarked Brian Pummel, “and customers can wait in a safe, comfortable waiting area”.

Advantage Auto Care (972) 544-2702

A Ferris resident since 2006, Rene Lopez sensed that the timing was right to open a used car lot at the corner of Interstate 45 and E. 5th Street. “We’ve had a great first quarter” said Rene. By late spring he will also be offering oil changes, A/C and brake repairs.

Rene Lopez Auto Sales (469) 508-6981



Four Years in a Row!

“National Accreditation is a statement that the local Main Street program is working hard and consistently moving forward to achieve downtown revitalization goals that are grounded in historic preservation”
..Debra Drescher, Texas Main Street Program Coordinator.

Doug Childers, I.T. Director

Over the last couple of months there have been many questions asked about the choices in internet services available here in Ferris. There have been many discussions over social media and some have contacted me through the city hall about this issue. So, I thought it best to address these questions in hopes of getting accurate information to everyone. Currently, there is no wired service that has been willing to invest in providing service to the Ferris area. These include AT&T U-verse®, Verizon FiOS®, Time Warner Cable®, Charter®, and several other companies that use Fiber Optic lines. I have spoken to each of these companies and it is too much of an investment vs returns to consider our city at this time. With that said, the only other option at this time is wireless services that use a line of sight from our water towers to your house. We currently have 3 companies that serve our city; ECTISP, Sky Beam, and Wi-Five. I hear many complaints about these companies not supplying the services they promise. Even though I cannot directly control how these companies respond to you, I can make our voice known in a more collective way. To help with this I have placed a link on our website for you to send me any problems that you are experiencing with these companies. We are currently negotiating with another wireless company that has a stellar record among cities and their citizens. This new company will also supply the Ferris ISD with



high speed internet and we are hoping to offer this faster new service to you in the next few months. In the meantime, I want to assure you that we are doing everything possible to resolve this and supply the fastest, most reliable service we can receive for our city. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.



Doug Childers

Doug.Childers@ci.ferristx.us

Information Technology Administrator

100 Town Plaza 972-544-2110

Bill Jordan, Chief Building Official



First and foremost, I would like to thank all the business owners and other water customers who were required to complete a backflow test. Your hard work and cooperation is greatly appreciated! I know that the process was cumbersome, but being the first year with a new process, some obstacles were expected. Regardless, we are at 97% compliance as I type this article, and I expect we will be at 100% at the publication of this newsletter!

For contractors and homeowners who will be pulling permits for construction and repairs this summer, the City is now taking all permit payments at City Hall. This means you can pay for your permit at the same place you pick it up! Of course, you can still apply and pay for permits through our website at www.ferristx.org.

With all the rain, and snow, we have been receiving we can expect a very green spring. Undergrowth, grass and weeds harbors snakes, mice, insects, and is a fuel for fire as the summer heats up! The city requires you keep your yard mowed to lower than 10 inches in height. This includes the parkways and ditches up to the road pavement. Also remember to mow the alley areas and clean out any underbrush that has accumulated. If you end up with limbs and trash, be sure to call City hall at 972-544-2110 to schedule a bulk pickup. Thank you for doing your part to keep Ferris looking good!



100 Town Plaza

Ferris, Texas 75125

WWW.FERRISTX.ORG

-----City of Ferris Contact List-----Cut Here & Hang on your Refrigerator!-----City of Ferris Contact List-----



Contact List

Animal Control	972-544-2225
Building Official	972-544-2965
City Hall	972-544-2110
Economic Development/Main Street Director	972-842-2923
Customer Service	972-842-2752
Fire Department (Non-Emergency)	972-842-2898
Library	972-544-3696
Municipal Court	972-544-2028
Police (Non-Emergency)	972-544-2225
Police (Emergency)	911
Senior Citizens	972-544-3071
Water Department/Public Works	972-842-2752